

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled. Amended claims 1-4 and new claims 7-8 are in this application.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,844,845 (Whiteside et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,165 (Jones, Jr. et al.).

Amended independent claim 1 recites in part the following:

"and in which the small boss has a length which is larger than a width thereof."

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Whiteside and Jones applied by the Examiner does not appear to disclose the above features of claim 1. That is, such combination of Whiteside and Jones does not appear to disclose a small boss having "a length which is larger than a width thereof" as now recited in claim 1.

More specifically, and as best understood, in explaining the above 103 rejection the Examiner appears to assert that bump or protrusion 178 of Whiteside is the same as the small boss of claim 1. (See lines 7+ of section 3 on page 2 of the present Office Action.) It is respectfully submitted that such bump or protrusion 178 of Whiteside does not appear to have "a length which is larger than a width thereof."

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the above 103 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully requested that the above 103 rejection of amended independent claims 2 and 3 be withdrawn.

Claim 4 is dependent from amended independent claim 3. Accordingly, it is also respectfully requested that the above 103 rejection of claim 4 be withdrawn for at least the reasons previously described.

New claims 7-8 have been added herein.

The features added to claims 1-4 and included in new claims 7-8 are believed to be described in the present application and, as such, are not believed to be new matter. See, for example, Fig. 5B and lines 3-5 of page 5 of the present application.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

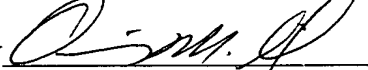
Application No.: 10/538,880

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-1066

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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